United Nations A/68/809–S/2014/215

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 21 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 March 2014 addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

14-27745 (E) 280314

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 27 January 2014 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/68/719-S/2014/56), which contains allegations of "illegal and provocative activities by the Turkish air force" within "Cyprus's national airspace and the Nicosia FIR". In this connection, I have the honour to bring to your kind attention the following.

Flights of Turkish aircraft inside the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full permission and knowledge of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace.

The flights of Italian military GLF-3 aircraft have taken place without prior knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and thus constitute a clear violation of the sovereignty of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus over its airspace. Needless to say, these flights also created a serious risk for the safety of navigation of civilian aircraft in the region.

The flights of Italian military aircraft that have taken place without the prior knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have been duly protested by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a letter dated 9 January 2014 addressed to the Italian Embassy in Nicosia (South). The said letter includes the details pertaining to the time, altitude and coordinates of the flights in question. It is noteworthy that violations of the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by Italian military aircraft were recorded on 23 and 30 October and 11, 14 and 15 November 2013, respectively. In the face of these developments and upon the request of relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkish military aircraft undertook preventive action in accordance with international rules in order to identify aircraft violating the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

There can be no doubt that in the event of the violation of the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, similar preventive measures will be taken in exercise of the sovereign rights of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

As noted in our previous letters, Greek Cypriot assertions on so-called airspace violations and "interference with civilian and military aircraft" are based on the false and illegal claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory and national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two sovereign, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory and airspace.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to put on record, in view of the resumption of talks, that the Turkish Cypriot side is fully committed to finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, namely, a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island and within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two Constituent States of equal status. It is our considered view that if our sincere and constructive approach is reciprocated by the Greek Cypriot side, a long-overdue settlement of the Cyprus problem is achievable in the shortest possible time.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus